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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/864,360	05/23/2001	James Allen Clark	2705-167	4571
20575	7590	01/24/2006	EXAMINER	
MARGER JOHNSON & MCCOLLOM, P.C. 210 SW MORRISON STREET, SUITE 400 PORTLAND, OR 97204			SHANG, ANNAN Q	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2617	

DATE MAILED: 01/24/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/864,360	CLARK ET AL.
	Examiner Annan Q. Shang	Art Unit 2617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 November 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-31 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-31 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments/amendment filed 11/10/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

With respect to independent claims 1 and 22 and amended independent claims 9, 15, 26 and 30, applicant argues that the prior art of records Herz et al (6,088,722), "does not teach decoding of the content signals. No decoder is mentioned in Herz. Second, even if the 'content signals' cited by the Examiner are decoded, the signals are not display signals, but are 'content profiles'..." (see page 7 of 9 of applicant's Remarks).

In response, Examiner disagrees. Examiner notes applicant's arguments, however, Herz discloses a cable Head end which encodes, encrypts and compresses multimedia programs to meet bandwidth demands and transmits bit stream of the encoded, encrypted and compressed video program or multimedia to various set top multimedia terminal (STTMT) via CATV system, wireless cable, DBS, optical fiber/coaxial cable, etc., (fig.9-10, col.43, line 66-col.44, line 21 and line 35-col.45, line 37), where the STTMT, decodes, decrypts and decompresses the signal for presentation on Display Device 1110. Note further that Descrambler 1016 is a decoder.

With respect to amended claims 9, 15, 26 and 30, applicant further argues that Herz does not teach detecting, tracking or monitoring services available and further argues that Herz does not teach content analyzer (see page 8 of 9 of applicant's Remarks).

In response, Examiner disagrees. Examiner notes applicant's arguments however, Herz further discloses automatically monitors and tracks available multimedia services (col.9, lines 29-40, lines 54-63) and dynamically transmitting on demand or in real time to the various STTMT base on the usage pattern (col.30, lines 17-54 and col.45, lines 6-37 and col.43, line 66-col.44, line 21 and line 35-col.45, line 37)). Herz, further teaches a System Controller/Distribution System 506/504 "content analyzer" for determining available programs or multimedia services, including most popular programs (col.26, lines 38-67, col.28, lines 19-33, col.30, line 18-54 and col.49, lines 11-45). Hence, applicant's amended and unamended independent claims do not overcome the prior art of records, the rejections are hereby maintained and repeated below. This office action is made final.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-5, 7-11, 13-15 and 17-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by **Herz et al (5,758,257)**.

As to claims 1-2, note the **Herz** reference figures 4-6 and 9-10, discloses system and method for scheduling broadcast (analog or digital), in a one-way (fig. 4), two-way

cable system return and two telephone systems return (figs 5-6 and col. 41, lines 42-56), of and access to video programs and other data using customer profiles and further discloses a network termination unit (Set Top Multimedia Terminal 'STMT,' figs. 9-10), which receives from CATV system, wireless cable, DBS, telco systems, off air, etc., comprising:

Set Top Multimedia Terminal 'STMT' includes a port to receive content signals (video programs, news, music, etc., col. 9, lines 20-25 and col. 46, lines 24-35, from Head end 408/502), a demodulator operable to demodulate the content signals into display signals and a decoder operable to decode the demodulated content signals into display signals (figs 1-3 and col. 24, line 53-col. 25, line 6), note that the analog or digital data or bit stream received is demodulated, decoded, etc., into command and control signals, processed, before displaying on a display device or TV;

a module (Processor 906 or Microprocessor 1006 'P/MP' 906/1006, col. 45, lines 34-col. 46, line 18 and line 43-col. 47, line 1+) operable to detect use patterns of the user viewing display signals (col. 14, lines 4-10, col. 25, lines 31-44, col. 26, line 51-col. 27, line 6 and col. 29, line 52-col. 30, line 40) on a viewing device (TV) and to transmit the use patterns as use pattern packets (col. 40, line 66-col. 41, line 18, col. 42, lines 25-67), note that M/MP 906/1006 monitors usage or watched multimedia patterns and calculates an agreement matrix of each watched or interacted multimedia, such as different movies, games, news, music, etc., the various characteristics used for the define programs (col. 19, line 6-col. 21, line 1+), formats accordingly to include the appropriate packet header to identifier the multimedia type and transmits to the Head

end, which detects services or multimedia available (col. 9, line 20-27, line 62-col. 10, line 20) to the STMT and targets multimedia to the STMT based on the matrix or profile.

Head end System Controller/Distribution System 506/504 "content analyzer" automatically monitors and tracks available multimedia services (col.9, lines 29-40, lines 54-63) and dynamically transmitting on demand or in real time to the various STTMT base on the usage pattern (col.30, lines 17-54 and col.45, lines 6-37), note that System Controller/Distribution System 506/504, determines available programs or multimedia services including most popular programs (col.26, lines 38-67, col.28, lines 19-33, col.30, line 18-54 and col.49, lines 11-45)

As to claim 3, Herz further discloses where STMT comprises a demodulator/modulator or cable modem to demodulator and modulator 1024 signals over the CATV cable network (fig. 10, lines 6-9).

Claim 4 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 1.

As to claim 5, Herz further discloses where the STMT/TV includes a computing device (col. 45, lines 9-55 and col. 46, lines 24-61).

Claim 7 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 1.

Claim 8 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 1.

As to claim 9, the claimed "a content analyzer, comprising..." is composed of the same structural elements of previously rejected claim 1.

As to claim 10, Herz further disclose where the content analyzer resides at the distribution hub (col. 45, line 34-col. 46, line 18 and line 43-col. 47, line 1+).

As to claim 11, Herz further disclose where the content analyzer resides at the Head end (col. 42, lines 25-67).

Claim 13 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 1.

Claim 14 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 1.

As to claim 15, the claimed "a method of transmitting use patterns, the method comprising..." is composed of the same structural elements of previously rejected claim 1.

Claim 17 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 1.

As to claims 18-20, Herz further tracks video content, programs, advertisements, etc., delivery to STMT (col. 23, lines 10-18, col. 29, lines 31-50, col. 41, lines 20-25 and col. 47, line 53-col. 48, line 4)

Claim 21 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 1

As to claim 22, the claimed "a network termination unit, comprising..." is composed of the same structural elements of previously rejected claim 1.

Claim 23 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 1.

Claim 24 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 3.

Claim 25 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 1.

As to claim 26, the claimed "a content analyzer, comprising..." is composed of the same structural elements of previously rejected claim 1.

Claim 27 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 10.

Claim 28 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 11.

Claim 29 is met as previously discussed with respect to claim 1.

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As to claims 30-31, the claimed "an article containing machine-readable code... comprising..." is composed of the same structural elements of previously rejected claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 6, 12 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Herz et al (5,758,257)** as applied to claims 1, 10 and 15 above, and in view of **Zintel (6,779,004)**.

As to claims 6, 12 and 16, Herz fails to explicitly teach where the use pattern packets are identified as such using a content discovery protocol.

However, note the **Zintel** reference disclose dynamic connectivity among distributed devices and services, where packets are identified using discovery protocol (col. 4, lines 56-65, col. 5, lines 49-56, col. 7, lines 17-26 and col. 46, line 33-46).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the teaching of Zintel into the system of Herz in order to enable the client or the service provider to automatically find controlled devices and services.

Conclusion

6. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Annan Q. Shang** whose telephone number is **571-272-7355**. The examiner can normally be reached on **700am-400pm**.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, **Christopher S. Kelley** can be reached on **571-272-7331**. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is **571-273-8300**.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the **Electronic Business Center (EBC)** at **866-217-9197 (toll-free)**.



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